RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 Exhibit 106

106.

106

Copies of Sunday
Letters in

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 Exhibit 106

Copies of Letters furnished by Mr. D. Bradford numbered from 1 to 5 inclusively.

U. S. B. Mint. New Orleans,
February 18th 1839.

Sir,

Your letters of the 30th ult.o & 5th inst. are before me. I had heretofore avoided the unpleasant office of informing you of the course I had deemed it my duty to persue in relation to Mr. Spofford. My own feelings of propriety prevented me from disclosing that your selection had proved so unfortunate nor could I believe that any duty required me to trouble you on the subject. To the manner of Mr. Spofford I made no objection; had he not manifested insufferable insubordination, I should have been happy to have retained him in his situation as long as he performed its duties, but when he disregarded every instruction, verbal and written, which I addressed to him and set my authority utterly at defiance he left me no alternation. A sense of public duty alone, without any regard whatever to my own feelings compelled me to dismiss him. I confess I was deeply disappointed and pained at the conduct of this individual as I had hoped from recommendation to have found him in all respects qualified for the business of the institution.

An equally painfull duty is imposed on me by your letter of the 5th inst. It seems that Mr. Maxwell has informed you by his letter of the 24th

ult.o to you, that he has never been able to have a satisfactory settlement. That the warrants between the Treasurer and himself have been made up from his statements alone and that not an account as yet has been opened."

How far these statements are true will appear from a Communication from the Treasurer in answer to my written request a copy of which is herein enclosed.

To these I will only add what "the delay in making up the annual accounts between the Treasurer, the Matter of Refiner, and Coiner, was occasioned by the latter officers, who after their accounts had been rendered, adjusted, compared & approved were so tardy in closing them, by signing them, that I was on the point of sending them on without their signatures and reporting their delinquency."

You enquire "If your Treasurer an officer Competent to the important trust which he holds?" I have to inform you that his accounts to the 30th June last were adjusted at the Treasury Department as appears by the enclosed Copy. S. N. Barker, Comptroller." dated "December 27th 1838" And the enclosed copy of a communication from the Treasurer to me, to the accuracy of which I feel bound from intimate knowledge

of the facts to add my most unqualified assur=
=rance, will afford you authentic information
and furnishes the fullest answer to your enquiry
For my own part I am perfectly satisfied that
there is no derangement in the Treasurer's Office
and no need of any reform. At this time he has
but one Clerk, Mr. Dimitry, a gentleman fully
competent, very attentive and industrious and
as soon as I deem the business of the institu=
=tion requires it, I shall appoint another. The
only Clerks appointed by me of my own selection
Mr. Dimitry, Mr. Durel and Mr. Lasere were
as highly competent as any individuals to be
found in the Union. The two last resigned in
Consequence of the inadequacy of the salary. Mr. Lasere at
present fills a lucrative and honorable employment in the
Legislature of the State.

Permit me Sir, in the same spirit of frankness and
confidence which has induced me to answer every enqui=
=ry of yours to request that in future Copies of all letters
addressed to you by any individual Containing charges
against any officer of this institution be immediately for=
=warded to me so that in no instance the public interest
or the rights of individuals may be violated. I am truly
sorry that an occasion should have taken place to
render this request necessary, but your letter of the 2d
inst. has satisfied me of its propriety and

4

justice.

Very respectfully your humble servant
(Signed) David Bradford
Supt.

To Dr. R. M. Patterson,
Director, Mint, Philadelphia.

P.S. The original of which the above is a copy was mailed the 19th by Express Mail.
D. B.

United States Br Mint N. Orleans
Treasurers Office 16 February 1839.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of a written Communication from you, in which you request me to state in Writing.

1°. Whether an annual Settlement of accounts has been made this year between the Treasurer and Melter & Refiner?

2°. Whether the same was satisfactory or not?

3°. Whether the warrants between the Melter & Refiner and treasurer, has been made up from the statement of the former alone or from what source?

4° What is the states of the accounts in the office What one if any have not yet been opened?

5°. Particularly Whether the bullion account between the Melter & Refiner and the Treasurer has been opened?

6°. Generally the condition of the office?

7°. That the above enquiries are to be considered as made also in relation to the accounts between the treasurer and coiner, & to answer'd you at the earliest convenience.

1°. The annual settlements of accounts between the treasurer and Melter & refiner was made on the 22d. of January last.

2°. I have no reasons to believe that said settlement was otherwise than satisfactory as it has received the signature of both parties

3°. I am not aware that any warrants have been drawn upon in references to the business of between the Melter & Refiner and Treasurer; from the statements of the former alone: but the accounts have been compared before full settlement.

4°. There is no irregularity or confusion in the accounts in this office. The only point omitted is the transfer from the Journal to the Ledger. Which transfer has not been made in consequence of the ruling of the ledger not according with the specimen received from Philadelphia, and your request that the entries should not be made before the arrival of Mr. Spofford from Philadelphia, who however, averred himself unable to clear the difficulty.

5°. The bullion account between the Treasurer and Melter & Refiner has been opened and regularly kept, the transfers however from the Journal to the Ledger have.

not been made for the reason just stated.

6°. There is no irregularity in the accounts or Vouchers or Books in this office.

7°. The foregoing replies to your inquiries relative to the transaction of business between the Treasurer and Melter & Refiner and the state of the accts are equally applicable to any transactions and accounts with the Coiner

Respectfully

(Signed) Edmn. Forstall

treas. B. Mint.

To David Bradford
Supert. B. Mint.

Copy of a letter from the Treasury department Washington City

Treasury department
First Comptroller's Office
December 27th 1838.

Sir,

Your account as treasurer of the branch Mint at N. Orleans has been adjusted at the Treasury and a balance of $22628,76. stated to be due from you to the United States

Balance acknowledged by you is $2628,76.
To which add do.

The following warrants issued since the period for which your account has been rendered and therefore not credited by you but with which you stand charged on the Book of the Treasury

No. 9118 dated 9 July 1838 $10.000
" 9447 — 25 August — " 10.000 " 20.000

" 22628,76.

Very respectfully your Obedient Servt.
(Signed) T. N. Barber
Comptroller.

Edmond Forstall
Treasurer of Branch Mint
of New-Orleans

U. S. B. Mint, New-Orleans
May 16th 1839.

Sir,

I yesterday received your letter of the 7th inst in which you state that you have received a letter from James Maxwell, Esq. the Director of Repairs in this Branch Mint respecting very unpleasant circumstances that have recently occured in the Treasurers department of this Branch Mint. Without further recapitulation I shall proceed at once to answer your interrogatories.

1st. By whom was the deposite of Mexican dollars made? By Damien Casas.

2d. Was it Verified and a receipt given for it? Yes.

3d. Was the deposite duly recorded at the time, and does that record remain on the books as originally made? Was the number of the deposite 98? If so what was No 100? The deposite was duly recorded and I have the original record. The original number of Tichenor deposite was 99 and of Damien Casas 100, I refer to my answer to Int. No 7.

4th. Is it customary with you to melt deposites of Mexican dollars for assay?

It is, because the assayer decided that it was necessary, having discovered that there was an immense number of base Dollars in Circulation giving titles of 550 & 660, very difficult to be detected without an assay and because there was no regularity in the results of the assays the titles having varied from 882 to 898, and in one instance a deposite from the Post Office of Mexican dollars was as low as 618.

5th. Does the Clerk still assert that the dollars were given to Mr. Maxwell or to the man who melts the deposites for assay? If so does he state any circumstance attending their delivery by which the fact might be ascertained, such as the presence of other persons &c? The Clerk still

affirms that the Dollars in question were delivered to the melter and Refiner or the man who melts the deposites for assay, were weighed before melting, reweighed after melting, were re-delivered after assay and the entry is on the Melter & Refiner's owne Book. After the most Carefull and anxious examination of the painful subject, it is my deliberate opinion that the Dollars in question were delivered to the Melter & Refiner both before and after the assay.

6th Did Dr. Hort at the time make any assays of bars of the Mexican Standard and which he could refer to the deposite in question? He did, Herewith I send you his first letter and an extract from his second to me on this subject, in the latter of which I fully concur.

7th Can any satisfactory reason be given for the removal of a leaf or leaves from the Weigh-Book and for the alteration of the number filled up for the assayer and returned by him? For some time before this unpleasant occurrence took place, we had received daily a number of small deposites, consisting for the most part of 100 Mexican Dollars; the Melter & Refiner informed me that great expense was incurred by melting these small deposites and that it would be best to keep them until they amounted to a melt, say $2,000. He said that the deposites might be paid at once in small coins, that he

could take them at the average weight of 86,500 for every $100, and that the assayer could give a certificate without an assay at 896. This the assay-er refused to do - but proposed that the deposites should be regularly entered in the weigh-Book, the depositors paid in Small Coins, that when there was an amount of $2000, it should be delivered to the melter and Re-finer, and after being melted and re-weighed and assayed, the proportional weight should be determined for each depositor, entered in the weigh Book and a Calculation be made from the averaged title. If any loss occured that it should be Covered by a wastage warrant unless covered by an equal gain in another melt. The obstinacy of the Melter & Refiner and errors in numbering in his department to which my at-tention was several times Called by the assayer is in my opinion the Cause of the confusion in the numbers of the deposites in the weigh-Book and for the tearing out a sheet, improperly I admit under any Circumstances but in this instance I am sure it was done without any evil intent or design. I fortunately have it in my possession.

I will further add that I was not sufficiently explicite in giving directions to the weighing Clerk.

8th At the time in question were there any other Mexican Dollars in the Treasurers Vault? Yes.

9th When your examination was made on the

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 Exhibit 106

occurrence of the difficulty were there any Mexican Dollars in the Treasurer's vault (I mean the vault to which the weigher has access) which might have constituted the deposite in question?

This question is answered above in the affirmative but a fact which is to be found in the assayer's second letter would seem to be full and explicit The melter & Refiner knew that there was a accumulation of Bullion (coins) in the Treasurer's vault. He made a calculation of the amount from his own books and the weighing-books. Damian Casas' deposite, the one in question, was on his books, was recorded on the weigh-book and its delivery to him was recorded on the weigh books. In view of all these facts he made his Calculations of the amount of ounces not including the Casas deposite and the weight Confirmed his calculation. This fact has been admitted to me by the melter & Refiner.

10th. What is the name of the Clerk of the weigh-room? How long has he been in the mint? What is the character that he bears? Mr. D. Dimitry is the Treasurer's clerk and has been since the 9th of January last. He is the one most Concerned in this difficulty. Richard Parker is the other Clerk. I appointed him the first of April. He did not enter on the duties till the 18th after this difficulty had occurred. More conscientiously honest

12

ment I believe there are not to be found in this world, and this is the opinion entertained of ~~the~~ both by the most respectable persons in this section of the Country. I have now answered your several questions, and have to remark that notwithstanding the causes I have assigned for the confusion in the numbering of the deposites in the weigh-Book and the consequent tearing out of a sheet of it I truly admit that there has been on the part of the Clerks great carlessness — you observe unpardonable carelessness. Permit me to assign the reasons why I cannot concur in the use of the harsh terms "unpardonable". I am informed by a person in whom I have full confidence that in may 1838 the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner of this Branch Mint, several times in conversation, stated that they must get rid of every Southern officer, Creoles and all who could speak French, that there places should be supplied from Philadelphia and that then they could manage the Mint as they pleased." Of this determination and intention I entertain no doubt as their conduct every since has been such as to confirm me in this impression. The Melter & Refiner has alternately attacked the assayer and treasurer and uniformly every Clerk that I have appointed. He has withheld information when he ought to have given

it and he has done every thing in his power to entrap the assayer and embarrass the operations in the Treasurer's department. Mr. Dimitry is a profound Scholar and scientific man, but easily confused and has been over-awed and confused by the overbearing browbeating and dictatorial conduct of the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner, and to them I attribute his embarrassment and all the consequent confusion and difficulties. Mr. Parker I have known from infancy and I know him to be strictly honest and indefatigably industrious and extensively practicably experienced in public business, having been formerly years a deputy Clerk in the Circuit Court Wilkinson County, Mississippi. The conduct of the Melter & Refiner and the Coiner has been such as to disgust every person who has had any dealings or Communication with them in the Mint. It is now my duty to inform you as I was engaged in doing when I received your letter that I have written to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting their removal from a deliberate Conviction of its being my duty to make the application. Accept my thanks for your frank and proper Course in this matter & assurances of my highest respect.

Your Faithful Servant
(Signed) David Bradford.

Supt.

14

U. S. B. Mint of New-Orleans
May 19th 1839.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 9th inst. in which you observe "If Mr. Mansfield thought he had reason to suspect any one attached to the Mint it was his duty to make his suspicions known and if the individual thus suspected has dared while the matter was under official inspection to threaten a resort to brute force for the maintaining of his character, I am sure you will see the impropriety of retaining him immediately from your employment."

Under a view of the case which it appears you have been induced to take from the representations in Mr. Mansfield's letters, I fully agree with you that the immediate dismissal of Mr. Dimeter would be proper, but permit me to present what I believe to be a correct view of the case and I am satisfied you will entertain a different opinion from the one you have expressed.

In all the conversations I have had with Mr. Mansfield on this unpleasant subject, I have uniformly told him that it was my deliberate opinion that Mr. Dimeter was as honest as any man that breathes and that as far as my examination of the case had gone I was under the im-

pression that the deposite of Damion Casus had been melted and assayed. The documents I forwarded to you on the 27th inst will afford you a knowledge of most of the facts that produced in me this impression. Under these circumstances then, and aware that Mr Dimetry was sustained as far as his character was in question by Mr Forstall, Dr Hoot and myself, it was Mr Marywell who prejudiced the case whilst it was under investigation and directly charged Mr Dimetry in the weigh-room With fraud in the presence of Mr Parker Mr Forstall Mr Ducoing and myself and he repeated it several times after=ting the indignation of every one who heard him thus wantonly attempting to destroy the character of a gentleman for life; I assure you that no gentleman can receive such an insult in this City or any of the Southern states and maintain his character as an honest man and his rank in society without resenting it personally and promptly Mr Dimetry was restrained at the mo=ment by respect for the place where the circumstance occurred and after waiting a day, giving an op=portunity for the withdrawal of the insult, he addressed the note to him of which you have received a copy and in which you will observe that the chastisement threatened was to be without

the precincts of the Mint, where the distinctions between officer and Clerks do not exist.

Mr. Maxwell had Mr. Dimetry bound over to keep the peace and Mr. Forstall our Treasurer going his security in the bond and Mr. Dimetry having no other remedy left him has sued Mr. Maxwell for Slander and the question of fraud will, I hope soon be determined before an impartial Judicial tribunal where officers and Clerks will stand as freemen and as equals. Mr Maxwell performed this duty in making known to me his suspicions, but I did not agree with him and I consider his conduct outrageous in charging Mr. Dimetry with fraud and under the circumstances to wit: Just after I had expressed to him the impressions the investigation I had made and was still making had produced on my mind.

I was engaged in writing my opinion on this question of the Mexican Casas deposite, when Mr. Maxwell came into my office and after hearing my frank and undisguised sentiments, dared to insult me grossly by remarking emphatically that I must be convinced that he was right and intimating that I was sacrificing justice and ~~peace~~ truth for the sake of Mr. Dimetry.

Indeed sir his conduct in the Mint has

been such as to disgust every gentleman who has had any business with him and every workman in his employment and entirely destroyed my confidence in him and I am convinced that while he remains there will be neither peace nor harmony in this branch Mint

Very respectfully
Your faithful servant
(signed) David Bradford
Superr.

To. Dr. R. M. Patterson
Director of the Mint
Philadelphia.

U. S. B. Mint New-Orleans
May 26 1839.

Sir,

I received your letter of 16th Inst. day before yesterday in which you mention that you had received a letter from Mr. Tyler accusing one of the men employed by me in this Branch Mint of purloining coins. It did receive my most particular attention at the first intimation I had of the charge. You are under the impression that the accusation is supported by the strongest circumstantial evidence. Ex parte testimony often appears decisive of the character and fate of an individual. In every instance, in which

Messrs. Tyler and Maxwell have brought charges against officers in the B. Mint or individuals whom I have employed or appointed, I have been under the necessity of differing with them

In the case of the individual to whom you allude I was firmly convinced of his innocence as Mr. Tyler can possibly be of his guilt. As you request me to state the reason that induced me to allow this individual to remain in this Branch Mint I feel it my duty promptly to communicate them to you & fully recognising your right to demand any information on any subject connected with this Branch Mint that it is in my power to give. I appointed Mr. L. C. Bremond Porter in this Branch Mint from a full conviction that he was well qualified for the station. Mr. Tyler took a dislike to him at once as he has done to every Southern man. He soon informed me that a brick layer named Kelley would satisfy me he was an improper character to be in the establishment I found from Kelley that he knew nothing against Bremond as he referred to others and particularly the Captain of the Steamer Commerce.

This gentleman Capt. Mayo called on me and stated that he had long known Bremond, had had him as second Clerk on his Boat, had entrusted him with the Collection of freight Bills in this

City and elsewhere to the amount of upwards of twenty thousand Dollars had always found him faithful and diligent and had the utmost confidence in him. This Capt. Mayoth is now inspector of Steam boats under appointment of the dist. Ct. of the United States in this City and I findisby all his acquaintances considered a gentle=man of the highest character. Mr. Hepburn the principal Broker in this City told me he had known Bremond in Tampico while he was in a responsible situation entrusted with large sums of money and that his character was irreproach=able.—It is true that in counting the small Coins delivered by Mr. Tyler to the Treasurer he (Bremond) has often reported a difficiency but others in the Treasurer's department have made the same report and so have the Banks when the small coins have been sent to them without having been counted in the Treasurers office. There is at least as much reason to sup=pose that errors in counting have been commit=ted in the Coniers department as in the Treasurys and indeed I have had ample proof that Mr Tyler is not infallible.

Difficiencies in weight and quality of coins that he has delivered have more than once occured. I have Mr. Bremonds Bonds for

$2500: Mr. Labarre a wealthy lawyer of this City and of highest respectability is his security and ~~those~~ from their having been fellow Collegians I find has offered to be his security in the purchase of property for $30.000 but I feel it my duty to go further into this subject and to be perfectly frank and explicit. I have it from undoubted authority that upwards of twelve months ago Messrs Tyler & Maxwell matured their plans to get out of Office every Southerner, Creole, and every one who could speak French and have their places supplied from Philadelphia when they said they would be able to manage the Mint as they pleased. The assayer was warned by several of the Workmen upwards of a year ago that every effort to entrap him would be made and that he must be on his guard. I received a letter from you (that of the 28th February 1838. and also that of the 20th June 1837) referring me to Mr Maxwell for information in the Treasurer's Office. Mr Durel the Clerk at my instance applied to him but could get none — Mr Fortalle and myself then requested the assayer to give Mr Durel all the assistance he could. To defeat this object it was concerted by Messrs T & Mb. that Mr Tyler should give the assayer sufficient employment in assaying

RG56 Entry 289 Box 4 Exhibit 106

planchets and pieces of silver to keep him out of the Treasurer's office. This plan was steadily followed up." The reports of the Comr to me & extracts from which I have already forwarded to you, condemn all the machinery sent here from Philadelphia and until recently I was induced to believe his statements and attribute all the difficulties and delay and deficiency in Coinage to the defective state of the machinery and especially the Coining presses. I am however now convinced from the statements of two successive Foremen Mr. Brown and Mr. P. Denny the most valuable Machinists we have had on the Mint that the true cause of delay is not to be found in the defective Machinery but in the determination of the Comr that the machinery sent from Philadelphia should not work until it had been condemned and renovated by him. He has always manifested a bitter hostility to Mr. Peale and it was because Mr. Peale had invented or arranged the Machines that they were to be condemned. The first foreman Washington Jackson, who was dismissed shortly after Mr. Tyler first arrived here I am informed has stated this as a fact which is confirmed by my own observation. Mr. Brown Foreman after Jackson, told me about two weeks past that Mr. Tyler observed to him "Your interest is my interest and mine is yours

instant and very much regret that the Cassier has not put in my power to redeem the promise that I was induced to make by his representations to make of early payment.

Respectfully

"Signed" Edmond Forstall

Ir. Br. Mint.

Collectors Office

New-Orleans May 17th, 1839.

Edmond Forstall Esq

Sir,

Some six or eight months since I deposited in the Commercial Bank several certificates of Deposite of Bullion and was this morning much surprised to be called on as endorser for the Amount with a notice that the Bank had called several times and could not get the Amount — I informed the President of the Bank that I could not pay the amount when the certificates was not protested this he said he would have done instantly but at my request has agreed to postpone entering a Protest until tomorrow I wish Sir, for the Credit of the Government you will not let those certificates be protested but will immediately provide Coin and take them up. — Respectfully &c.

"Signed" Jas. M. Breedlove Coll.

N. O. B. Mint New-Orleans
Treasurer's Office May 17th 1839

Jas. Breedlove Esq.

Sir.

In reply to your favor of this day's date I have only to express my deep regret that the Coinage has not furnished me with the means of paying our certificates. Complaints on this subject are increasing every day and Mr. Bradford informs me that he will immediately write to the Secretary of the treasury on the subject

Respectfully
Signed Ed. Forstall

Jr. Br. Mint.

I assure you Sir that these two cases serve but as an illustration of the mortification that the Treasurer and myself have to experience almost every day — When Messrs Tyler & Maxwell the coiners and the Melter & Refiner, arrived here from Philadelphia they were introduced to me by letter from Dr. Patterson the Director as officers to whom I might refer for information on all occasions and in whom I might place the greatest confidence — this induced me up to a very recent time to suppose that the delays in coining were unavoidable I am now convinced of the contrary and perceive that I have been deceived and that my confidence

was misplaced. I have called on Mr. Breedlove and communicated to him frankly the State of affairs in this Branch Mint and that I had applied for the removal of those officers he heartily approved of what I have done and is as well as myself convinced that unless a decided change takes place public sentiment will soon be arrayed against this Branch Mint and I fear prove fatal to this institution

Very respectfully Your humble Sert.

"Signed" David Bradford

Supt.

New Orleans June 8th 1839

I certify the foregoing to be true copies from the letters furnished by Mr Bradford superintendent of the Branch mint established in this city, on the 3d inst

Horatio Davis

Assay